



# KYRGYZSTAN PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

## United States Agency for International Development

### Central Asia Region

ENTERPRISE & TRADE		Implementing Partners
<p><b>Small &amp; Medium Agribusiness Support:</b> USAID provides business training to assist entrepreneurs, including agribusinesses, with planning, accounting, marketing and other aspects of successful business development. USAID-supported International Fertilizer Development Center is assisting entrepreneurs who provide critical agricultural inputs and works to develop trade associations for seed and other agricultural input production, information systems, and output marketing. As part of our land reform project, USAID training promotes private land ownership, land market development, the elaboration of water law and water user rights, and post-privatization support. In the Osh oblast, located in Kyrgyzstan's part of the Ferghana Valley, rural citizens receive independent and objective legal advice that focuses on the non-violent resolution of land-related disputes. As part of USAID's Cooperation Agreement with MASHAV, Agriculture Consulting Centers deliver a wide range of technical assistance and consulting services devoted to developing agribusiness. Through participation with the government of Kyrgyzstan, USAID is supporting the Osh Agricultural Initiative to support economic reforms in the Ferghana Valley, including increasing the availability of credit, delivering technical and advisory services to agribusinesses, and developing a legal and regulatory environment that fosters greater investment and accelerates SME growth.</p>		Pragma, MASHAV, International Fertilizer Development Center, Chemonics, Helvetas
<p><b>SME Support &amp; Business Education:</b> USAID is supporting the Investor Roundtable, which includes the President of Kyrgyzstan and the U.S. Ambassador, to help remove existing trade barriers, stimulate foreign investment, and foster a more favorable climate for SME growth. Through Enterprise Development Centers (EDC) in Bishkek and Osh, USAID's SME Development project is delivering a comprehensive package of information, technical assistance, and business training and advisory services to entrepreneurs and business managers. Business training and business advisory services draw on donor synergies by focusing on SMEs that receive small business loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Work with accounting reform, advocacy groups, and professional associations continues to improve the SME environment by promoting greater transparency and accountability. In partnership with a Central Asian regional accounting federation, USAID is supporting a training, examination and certification program that complies with international standards of accounting and audit. A new Regional Trade Promotion activity is facilitating regional trade through an internet-based regional trade network. USAID continues to deliver a wide range of volunteer technical assistance, including business consulting and business association development that strengthens business skills and practices and develops greater advocacy for reform. Finally, USAID's Resource Network for Economics and Business Education (EdNet) is offering college students greater access to information and opportunities to succeed in the free market by training professors in economics and business education, as well as making available teaching materials, and providing research opportunities and scholarships.</p>		KIMEP, Pragma, Carana, MBA-EC, MASHAV
<p><b>Financial Markets:</b> USAID is helping develop a more responsive financial sector, with stronger financial institutions and greater availability of credit. Working with the National Bank, USAID is focusing on improving the regulation of the banking sector and implementing supervisory techniques that meet international standards. Areas of particular importance are off-site surveillance, problem bank identification and resolution. In addition, USAID is providing increased opportunities for agribusinesses to access credit. The USAID-supported Small Enterprise Assistance fund is providing equity, term-debt, and lease financing that gives entrepreneurs access to investment capital to expand and run their businesses. Through support of FINCA and the Bai Tushum Financial Foundation, USAID is also providing micro-entrepreneurs with microfinancing and technical and advisory services that helps expand their businesses and create jobs.</p>		KPMG/Barents Group, FINCA, ACIDI/VOCA
<p><b>Commercial Law &amp; Trade:</b> USAID is working at both the local and national level to help reduce legal and regulatory constraints to business by improving policy-making and increasing transparency in the regulatory process. USAID is also assisting the government in developing a system of commercial and land legislation that supports private enterprise and land market development. Training aims to strengthen professionals', such as judges, attorneys and tax inspectors, capacity to interpret and apply commercial legislation. USAID also provides training to professionals and farmers to increase awareness and implementation of private land ownership rights and obligations. Critical post-World Trade Organization accession support is aimed at ensuring that WTO obligations and requirements are fulfilled, while assistance to the State Customs Committee is helping modernize customs procedures to meet international standards.</p>		Chemonics, ARD/Checchi, Pragma, Helvetas, MBA-EC

<b>Tax &amp; Budget Systems:</b> USAID, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Office of the President, Parliament and the Tax Inspectorate, is working to improve tax policy and administration, budget development and intergovernmental finance. USAID is helping bring about a stable, equitable fiscal sector by working with the government to develop sound, simple tax policy and accurate policy analysis methods. To capitalize on the will for decentralization, USAID is increasingly concentrating its efforts at the oblast and city administration levels to improve their budget and finance processes. This includes helping Osh and Bishkek convert their budget development process to a program based process.	KPMG/Barents Group
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DEMOCRATIC CULTURE & INSTITUTIONS	Implementing Partners
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<b>Civic Organizations:</b> USAID supports the growth of Kyrgyz NGOs and civic organizations through the establishment of Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs), grant programs, promotion of NGO advocacy programs and organizational development training. This support reinforces the development of sound programming practices to increase the professionalism, financial sustainability and impact that NGOs have in their communities. In particular, USAID supports the development of regional NGOs serving outside of the major cities of Osh and Bishkek. Grassroots advocacy programs lead to constructive activities and greater citizen participation in local communities. USAID also supports the empowerment of NGOs in targeted areas, such as the legal and environmental sectors.	ABA/CEELI, Counterpart Consortium, NDI, ISAR
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<b>Media &amp; Information:</b> USAID supports independent television and radio stations through seminars, internships, residencies, limited equipment donations and training manuals. Support focuses on providing stations with training in television management, advertising sales, television computer graphics, radio management and radio journalism. USAID/CAR supports the development of the Association of Journalists in Kyrgyzstan. USAID promotes the development of civic education programs through seminars, youth summer camps, law libraries/information centers and civic initiative planning at the local level. USAID is developing a civic education textbook and course for secondary schools.	ABA/CEELI, IFES, Internews, IOM
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<b>Political Process:</b> USAID provides technical assistance to reform-minded parliamentarians to strengthen the institution and their role as legislators. Assistance helps deputies increase the transparency and openness of Parliament to citizens and NGOs. USAID continues to provide limited assistance to political parties. USAID also promotes the development of an independent judiciary through professional legal associations.	ABA/CEELI, ICNL, NDI
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<b>Local Government:</b> USAID promotes decentralization and good governance in self-government cities, as well as through policy dialogue with the central government and Parliament. USAID trains locally elected council members and local officials nationwide in promoting public participation, budgetary and financial management, and community property management issues. Condominium associations receive accounting and management training. USAID advises national policy makers and legislators on ways legislation can strengthen local governments' authority and effectiveness and contributes to local government law drafting. As part of the Resource Cities program, USAID organizes exchanges of local government representatives between Naryn and Great Falls, Montana, to improve the quality of Naryn's local administration and to strengthen democracy at the local level.	Urban Institute, ICMA
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PRIMARY HEALTH CARE	Implementing Partners
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<b>Quality Primary Health Care:</b> In close collaboration with the World Bank, USAID is helping the Ministry of Health implement a comprehensive, cost-effective health care system that currently provides services to more than 40% of the population. Working in six of seven oblasts, USAID works to improve families' access to quality primary health care (PHC) and increase consumer options and satisfaction with PHC. The new family doctor system brings quality health care close to people and offers real incentives for doctors to provide quality, client-centered care. PHC practices now provide maternal and child healthcare services and address infectious diseases. To better finance and promote competition, USAID is designing and implementing incentive-based provider payment methods. New management and health information systems at the oblast and national level developed by USAID are improving financial and management decision-making. USAID is also strengthening health sector NGO capacity through needs-based organizational development assistance, by helping to design new services that NGO members can purchase and by teaching advocacy skills.	Abt Associates/ Zdrav Plus, Counterpart Consortium
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<b>Health Partnerships:</b> USAID supports a partnership among the University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSM), the University of South Florida Health Sciences Center and the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA). This partnership is enhancing the quality of education in family medicine, nursing and health care administration by creating model curricula and faculty development programs that support the goals of the Kyrgyz Republic's Manas health care reform program.	AIHA
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<p><b>Infectious Disease Control:</b> USAID provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to implement the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Therapy Short-course (DOTS) strategy nationwide. The program strengthens and standardizes DOTS clinical and laboratory training and monitors program implementation in close collaboration with WHO. To assure quality training and monitoring of the DOTS program, USAID hired a TB educator and TB program manager to reside in Bishkek. USAID continues to support activities to strengthen the Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory and the viral hepatitis sentinel surveillance system in Bishkek, Jalal-Abad and Naryn. A fully functioning Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic system has been installed and personnel trained for PCR procedures, enabling the laboratory to confirm ethiological diagnosis of Viral Hepatitis. USAID, in close collaboration with WHO, initiated quarterly Infectious Disease Roundtables to better coordinate the Government of Kyrgyzstan and donors' efforts.</p>	<p>CDC, Project HOPE, RPM</p>
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<p><b>HIV/AIDS Control &amp; Prevention:</b> USAID is initiating an extensive program of activities to control and prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Central Asia. An important part of USAID's strategy includes a new collaborative effort with Soros Foundation – Kazakhstan to extend programs for those groups most vulnerable to the epidemic: injection drug users, commercial sex workers and prisoners. Research and training in HIV/AIDS surveillance has been initiated. USAID has started activities on HIV/AIDS prevention, which included a study tour for government officials to a model Harm Reduction site in Vilnius, Lithuania; Central Asian Condom Social Marketing Assessment and Workshop; and the Central Asian Initiative Conference on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs. A document highlighting USAID's strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention in Central Asia has been published. Condom social marketing programs will be initiated in the epicenters of the epidemic: Karaganda city, Kazakhstan, Osh city, Kyrgyzstan, and in Uzbekistan's portion of the Ferghana Valley.</p>	<p>Soros Foundation, PSI, CDC</p>
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ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT	Implementing Partners
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<p><b>Natural Resource Management:</b> To improve resource efficiency and mitigate the potential for conflict over shared resources, USAID is initiating transboundary activities that will include training, increased policy dialogue, and installation of sustainable energy and water management models. Transboundary water and related energy cooperation activities are centered in Kyrgyzstan, the source of regional water for downstream countries. The regional effort on transboundary and related cooperation promotes best management practices, regional water and energy data storing, and the development of international agreements that meet international standards in order to reduce tensions over shared water resources. USAID is helping improve access to information, knowledge and skills so that energy and water specialists can more effectively manage natural resources, particularly transboundary and local water resources. Strengthened data collection and communication systems are promoting national and regional information sharing necessary to help water managers make more informed decisions on annual forecasting of snowmelt, planning, allocating, and modeling critical water systems. USAID is working closely with the World Bank and other international donors and is providing equipment installation, associated software models and training.</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc.</p>
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<p><b>Public Commitment:</b> USAID is building public interest and commitment for reform in the management of water resources and to promote best environmental and natural resources management practices. Public awareness activities are coupled with practical assistance efforts, such as models that demonstrate the viability of management concepts and new technologies, as well as the practicality of proposed policy and regulatory framework reforms. USAID is exploring the use of low-cost means that water user groups can employ on-farm to determine water needs for a given crop. The technique will help empower water user associations as decision-making organizations in water management. In energy, the development of a pilot project of a locally owned small hydroelectricity plant will demonstrate energy privatization. For example, local water user groups, using simple technology, will be able to more accurately assess their on-farm water needs and communicate this information to those who allocate irrigation water. This information will then be integrated into the planning for water allocations on a larger level.</p>	<p>PA Consulting</p>
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SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	Implementing Partners
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<p>The <b>Conflict Mitigation Initiative</b>, which includes the Community Action Investment Program (CAIP), promotes public dialogue, improves management of transboundary water resources and public health facilities, and increases education and other opportunities for youth. Focusing on southern Kyrgyzstan and the Ferghana Valley, this initiative will introduce community participatory processes to help identify sources of conflict, prioritize investments in social infrastructure improvements, create several thousand new short-term and sustainable jobs (the majority of which will be for youth), and improve social services through new and repaired infrastructure.</p>	<p>Mercy Corps, ACDI/VOCA</p>
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<p><b>Youth &amp; Education:</b> USAID-funded civics education textbook and accompanying teacher training and manuals are in use in secondary schools in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; USAID-supported democracy summer camps, student local government days, and student action committees round out the extracurricular portion of this program. A merit testing program for university admittance is underway in Kyrgyzstan. Business education and training is a key component of USAID's enterprise objective across the region (see section on Business Support &amp; Education above). USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) supports the Ferghana Valley Youth Basketball League. There are four teams of 15-16 year-olds who represent an ethnic mix that includes Uzbeks, Tatars, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Turks and Russians. An Osh condominium association is working with PCI, Urban Institute and a local NGO to construct sport and play areas for a separate city-wide, summer basketball league for boys and girls. Game Days are being implemented in cross-border areas through the Sports and Health Education Project, which aims to use sports as a vehicle to bring neighbors together, promote healthy life styles and advocate against drug use. USAID will address on a more comprehensive basis the deterioration of education in Central Asia and is modifying its crosscutting objective into a new special objective to improve basic education, particularly in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In Kyrgyzstan, the program will support the progressive</p>	<p>IFES, Soros Foundation OSI, Mercy Corps, Urban Institute, Carana, Abt Associates</p>
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Minister of Education's new education initiative through pilot schools.	
<b>Eurasia Foundation</b> makes small grants to support the growth of market and democratic institutions. Grants are focused in three program areas: Civil Society, Public Administration and Private Enterprise Development. Eurasia Foundation makes small grants on an ongoing basis, oriented to support the transition from centrally-planned to market economies. Eurasia operates mostly on an open-door basis, ie local organizations are encouraged to submit proposals at any time for funding. The average grant size is approximately \$16,000. Enterprise and Finance has piloted several innovative programs that were later made part of larger donor programs, including the Ferghana Valley Initiative, student legal clinics and business education.	Eurasia Foundation
<b>Participant Training &amp; Exchanges:</b> Training and exchanges remain a critical element for accomplishing USAID/CAR's overall strategic goals, and participants are carefully selected to support and complement USAID's broader portfolio and objectives. The training program is highly flexible and includes workshops, on-the-job training, observation, study tours and conferences and generates new ideas from participants on improving practices in their own countries. USAID provides short-term training courses in the United States, in-country and in third countries for mid-to-senior level leaders and professionals in areas directly relevant to the transition to democracy and a free-market economy. Training, exchanges and partnerships are fundamental to overall success since participants are carefully selected to support and complement USAID's broader portfolio and objectives. Annually, USAID trains over 9,000 Kyrgyzstanis through various activities. Of this total USAID trained over 1,2000 decision-makers, professionals and active citizens, nearly two-thirds of whom were women. In 2002, a new training and exchanges program called Strategic Technical Assistance for Results through Training (START) began.	AED

#### Glossary of Acronyms:

<b>ABA/CEELI:</b>	American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative
<b>AED:</b>	Academy for Educational Development
<b>AIHA:</b>	American International Health Alliance
<b>CDC:</b>	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>HOPE:</b>	Health Opportunity for People Everywhere
<b>ICNL:</b>	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
<b>ICMA:</b>	International City/County Management Association
<b>IFES:</b>	International Foundation for Election Systems
<b>IOM:</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISAR:</b>	Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia
<b>KIMEP:</b>	Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research
<b>MBA-EC:</b>	MBA Enterprise Corps
<b>NDI:</b>	National Democratic Institute
<b>OSI:</b>	Soros Foundation Open Society Institute
<b>PSI:</b>	Population Services International
<b>RPM:</b>	Rational Pharmaceutical Management
<b>WHO:</b>	World Health Organization